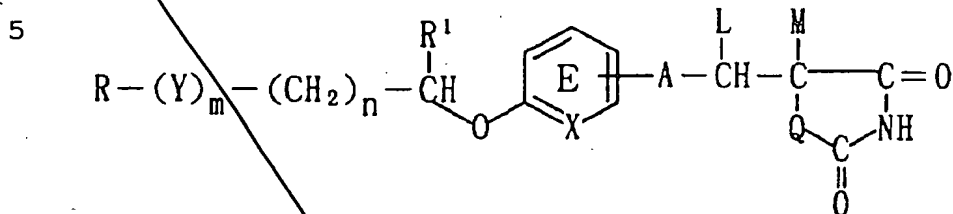


CLAIMS

Sub B2
1. An anti-inflammatory agent which affects by way of a TNF- α inhibitory action and comprises a compound of the formula:



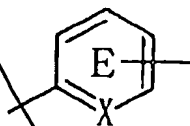
10 wherein R represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; Y represents a group of the formula -CO-, -CH(OH)-, or -NR³- where R³ represents an alkyl group that
15 may be substituted; m is 0 or 1; n is 0, 1 or 2; X represents CH or N; A represents a chemical bond or a bivalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 7 carbon atoms; Q represents oxygen or sulfur; R¹ represents hydrogen or an alkyl group; ring E may have further 1 to 4 substituents, which may form
20 a ring in combination with R¹; L and M respectively represent hydrogen or may be combined with each other to form a chemical bond; or a salt thereof.

2. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 1, wherein the heterocyclic group represented by R is a 5- to
25 7-membered monocyclic and heterocyclic group containing 1 to 4 hetero-atoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen in addition to carbon as ring members or a condensed heterocyclic group.

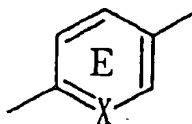
3. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 1,
30 wherein R represents a heterocyclic group that may be substituted.

4. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 3, wherein the heterocyclic group is pyridyl, oxazolyl or thiazolyl.

35 5. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 1, wherein the partial structural formula:



is the
formula:



- 5 6. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 1,
wherein X represents CH.
7. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 1,
wherein R¹ represents hydrogen.
8. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 1,
10 wherein L and M respectively represent hydrogen.
9. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 1,
wherein the compound is 5-[4-[2-(5-ethyl-2-
pyridyl)ethoxy]benzyl]-2,4-thiazolidinedione.
10. An anti-inflammatory agent according to Claim 1,
15 wherein the compound is (R)-(+)-5-[3-[4-[2-(2-furyl)-5-
methyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy]-3-methoxyphenyl]propyl]-2,4-
oxazolidinedione.
11. Method for treating or preventing a TNF- α mediated
inflammatory disease in a mammal in need thereof, which
20 comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount
of a compound as defined in claim 1 or a pharmacologically
acceptable salt thereof.
12. ~~Use of a compound as defined in claim 1 or a~~
Handwritten: A method of using
pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof for the
25 manufacture of an agent for prophylaxis or treatment of a
TNF- α mediated inflammatory disease.

add B3